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the diamond.

Dordt College

12 November 2009

Issue 5

NC/DC vocalists compete in semi-finals



Left: Jon Trueblood, Troy Ellens, Lee Radde, and Jander Talen perform The Little Mermaid's "Kiss the Girl." Right: David Puruolte finishes up Friday's competition with "Over my Head" by Brian Littrell. Photos by Kelly Cooke

Emily Stam
Staff Writer

The annual NC/DC event, an American Idol take-off, continued with the semi-finals on Oct. 6, as Dordt and Northwestern vocalists competed in the Bultman Center located on Northwestern's campus. Soloists, duets and groups continued their battle for the \$500 prize.

After both colleges voted for their top performers from

the first round, each sent five onto the semi-finals.

Dordt representatives were Adam Van Der Molen, Andrew Abels and Analu Demestri, Brittany Haan, David Puruolte, and "The Group That Has Never Sung at NC/DC Before," with members Jon Trueblood, Lee Radde, Jander Talen and Troy Ellens.

Many vocalists took their performances a step further as they incorporated costumes, small skits, and audience

participation within their songs.

One of these groups was "The Group That Has Never Sung at NC/DC Before." They entertained the audience with their acapella magic and crowd-pleasing antics.

As they put two audience members on the spot, the group wooed them with The Little Mermaid's "Kiss the Girl," asking the audience to increase the ambience by waving their cell phones to simulate fireflies.

"It's so amazing to never

have done it again for the second year," Radde said.

After losing graduated group member Nick Engbers, the group decided not only to change their name, but also to add a new member, Troy Ellens.

"It was an honor to be part of NC/DC," Ellens said.

Hosted by Dordt's David Christensen, and Northwestern's Katie Erickson, the NC/DC semi-finals ran smoothly, according to SAC members Pam Schutt and

Melissa Riezebos.

"We were more organized this year. We had more contact with Northwestern," Schutt said.

Northwestern and Dordt both named two judges to critique the various performances—one preferably a celebrity judge.

Randy Feenstra, a Dordt graduate and current Iowa State Senator from Hull, Iowa, served as Dordt's celebrity judge this year.

Judging alongside him was Dordt social work professor, Erin Olson, as well as Northwestern English professor, Weston Cutter, and Jon Nelson of Trinity Church.

As the four judges gave their critiques after each performance, one thing seemed to be missing: Simon Cowell.

Many students remarked on the leniency of the judges after some performances failed to impress.

However, the students decided who would continue on to the finals.

Voting ended Oct. 11, but the performers won't find out if they made the cut until the night of the final round. Those performances will be Friday, Nov. 20 at 10 p.m. in the BJ Haan Auditorium.

Slum Documentary finishes filming in Kenya over Christmas

Sonja Doty
Staff Writer

For 12 digital media students and Professor Mark Volkers, Christmas break doesn't mean snow and relaxation; instead, it means trekking through the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, shooting footage for the Slum Documentary Film Project.

Volkers began the project in the summer of 2008 as an awareness piece to open the lives of slum-dwellers in three different cities, in three different continents. He first went to Guatemala last summer, then Manila, Philippines over Christmas break last year.

"The time was right last year," Volkers said. Eight students went to Manila.

Danielle Roos, a senior, said the experience was

"interesting, weird, and amazing."

"The hardest part was seeing kids and babies crawling around in the garbage heap," said Roos. "They live right there ... you walk off the garbage pile and there are their homes."

"There is an extreme and violent poverty," Volkers said. "We want to show the dignity of these people."

Vern Eekhoff, a part-time student, will be a first-timer in his trip to Nairobi, but he already expects the shock of the slums. "When you see it firsthand, it's going to be overwhelming, no matter how much you've prepared," he said.

"We are all given gifts and opportunities," Eekhoff said. "You find out through media this whole new world. It's an exciting thing, especially with



Top left: Daniel Kauten, Dale Vande Griend, Andrew Hornor, Vern Eekhoff, Prof. Volkers, Luke Kreykes, Michelle Nyhoff, Alvin Shim, Pete Hessels, Piper Kroeze, and Danielle Roos prepare for their trip to Kenya. (Not pictured Hani Yang and Kelly Cooke) Photo contributed

a documentary, to be able to tell stories for what they are."

In Manila, the students interacted daily with the residents of the garbage heap. "When you see the people, they're not sitting there devastated," Roos said.

"They're all really happy to be alive—like they have so little that everything means so much to them."

Volkers rejects the idea that this project is for "shock value": This isn't something to walk away from, he said. "We

want to show the dignity of these people...and get people to ask, 'What can we do about it?'"

Participants in the trip do not all work on the slum documentary at once, said Volkers. There are three different locales in the slums where the team splits and works for local programs.

Children's ministry and job training are some of those that benefit from the free media. "It's really a PR project for workers in the slums," Volkers said.

Roos, Volkers, and Eekhoff all hope that the slum documentary footage will reach out to the viewers.

Volkers, who has frequently traveled internationally, said that "you never get used to it. The common humanity and injustice becomes very evident."

Dordt provides for Family Crisis Center with food - cooked or canned - when the

Iron Chef Challenge returns

Lance Kooiman
Staff Writer

On Nov. 21, Dordt College will be hosting its second annual Iron Chef Challenge.

The idea originally came from Dordt senior and Community Development Assistant (CDA) Justin Carruthers, and the activity is put on by the CDA's.

The main purpose of the event is to raise money for the Family Crisis Center. Last year, the event raised \$1500 and a thousand canned goods for the FCC, but Carruthers hopes to exceed that number this year. There are thousands of dollars in prizes, including \$300 cash for the winners and a \$1000 necklace and earrings as the main door prize.

Another goal of this event is to foster community in the broader Sioux Center

and Orange City areas. Channel 4 News will be there to film the event.

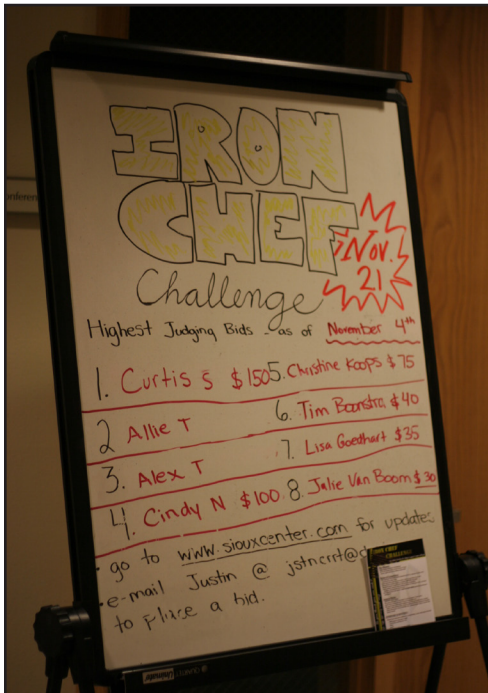
"The Sioux Center community businesses have been the backbone in ensuring the

success of this event," said Carruthers. "Everything donated on the night of the event will go directly to the FCC."

The first 10 people to bring 15 canned goods or more receive 15 stubs to be put in the drawing for door prizes and a free t-shirt. Last year's top donor gave 65 canned goods.

Contestants have one hour to make an appetizer, entrée, and dessert for 10 judges. Judges will score the food based on taste, plating, and creativity. The team with the highest score will receive the trophy and the \$300 cash prize.

The competition starts at 6 p.m. in the Grille area. A special event for spectators is currently kept under wraps.



As judging bids are placed, they are posted on the board on the first floor of the campus center, by the Defender Grille.
Photo by Kelly Cooke

No shoes required

Grace Venhuizen
Editor

"It's not just new – it's different," claim the "Barefoot Storytellers," a new branch of the Improvisation Sensation club that started Comedy League.

Barefoot Storytellers began last spring as an idea of Mark Bylenga and Piper Kroeze, the current presidents of Improvisation Sensation, and the group will perform for the first time on Nov. 21.

Bylenga and Kroeze wanted to offer students another way to explore theatre.

While Comedy League explores acting in humorous short scenes, Barefoot Storytellers is a long-form version of improv.

"It works on the art of storytelling by creating believable characters with unique histories," Bylenga said. "Comedy League is always funny, but this one is a mixture."

Group member Nick Van Ee agrees. "There is no need to be humorous; we focus on relationships and characters rather than physical comedy."

The new improv group starts their storytelling with a single word, and then creates three short scenes around that word. The group then votes on which scene they would like to develop further. In the past the group has started with words like soul, crayons, 1960's, snow and art.

Van Ee enjoys the difference in acting on a single theme. "Long-form [improv] is a chance to experience other people's lives," he said. "There is a sense of fulfillment in long form because you complete a story."

Bylenga estimates the group averages 12-15 students at each Monday night practice. Their performance on Nov. 21 will be held in the New World Theatre with refreshments available.

Man Club starts purity campaign

Emily Stam
Staff Writer

The Dordt Man Club will take on sex, porn and lust as part of a new purity campaign on campus.

Club founder Joseph Esry and various small group members expanded an idea from one small group's devotional book, *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker, which deals with these issues.

They sent weekly e-mails to approximately 470 men on campus, encouraging accountability and community relationships. They are also working on brochures about purity and are planning on contacting a list of possible speakers to discuss purity with the entire campus.

Man Club began last fall. "We wanted to give guys

an outlet to be guys, and to grow together as men," Esry said.

Rod Gorter, Campus Pastor, and Lindsay Vladimirov, Campus Ministries Coordinator, are also involved in helping the group grow as they provide leadership assistance.

Approximately 100 Dordt men actively participate in Man Club, and, while these men grow together in faith, they also like to have fun.

An all-night pizza and game bash started the school year, and they anticipate a pool party and rock climbing in the future.

With purity as their new focus, men on campus will be practicing their servanthood as well, as they plan to wait on the Dordt women in the campus cafeteria in celebration of Valentine's Day.

PLIA looking to 'show what students really care about'

Leaders hope 10 percent of campus will volunteer for Spring Break



Laura Schrottenboer painted and played at a school in Atlanta, Ga. on the 2009 PLIA trip. Photo contributed.

Vanessa Theel
Staff Writer

Students plan to "show we are Christians by our love" this Spring Break, according to Laura Schrottenboer, PLIA planning member.

PLIA is Dordt's mission program that takes place

over Spring Break; this year the PLIA planning committee hopes to send teams "from the deep south to Canada, and from the east coast to the Pacific northwest," Schrottenboer said. "Our main goal is to get into communities from around the US and Canada to help those that need it most."

This year, PLIA hopes to see at least 10 percent of Dordt's students participate in the program.

"It is not that we measure our success by the amount of people we have serve with us," Mark Eekhoff, PLIA committee member said. "It is that we think it would be a great statement of what Dordt students really care about."

The early deadline to apply for PLIA is Nov. 25; if students apply by this date the cost is \$65. The final deadline is Feb. 4, and the cost then is \$85.

Students fill out an application with their top choices of sites, and then the PLIA committee breaks down the applicants into groups accordingly.

To raise funds for the trips, PLIA will be holding a soup supper on Dec. 4. A mass meeting will be held Dec. 8 for anyone interested in serving.

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Working for his food

Stahl begins independent hydroponic project in greenhouse



Stahl's pump system in the greenhouse. Photo by Naomi De Boer

Sarah Groneck
Staff Writer

Greg Stahl said that he started his hydroponics project in the greenhouse for the free tomatoes.

"This is just for fun," said Stahl. "I got interested in it last spring. And, since I learn best through doing, I decided to go for it."

Stahl is growing tomatoes, lettuce and broccoli hydroponically, meaning that he uses only

water or a soil-less medium such as Perlite potting soil. As water and potting soil do not naturally have nutrients, Stahl must dissolve fertilizer in the water.

"It is a very water-conscious project," said Stahl. "This hydroponic project is huge in the Netherlands and with big-time farmers across the States."

The project took some background work over the summer. Stahl contacted hydro-

ponic experts on how to build a pump system at his home in Whitinsville, Mass. He then shipped the system to Dordt, before creating a proposal for Dordt's biology department in order to secure a spot in the greenhouse. The department agreed, and Stahl's hydroponic project began.

"I think that if more students were pushed to get excited about things, then Dordt would be better off," said Stahl. "Dordt has a lot of capabilities that we under-use, but of course there are a lot of things we do right too."

Stahl's is a small-scale project, as he has planted two varieties of tomato plants, totaling 50 plants. These varieties—which were planted in August—are hydrated through a drip system and are tied together with orange roping. Stahl hopes that the plants will grow to about eight feet and will produce tomatoes by December.

"This is just my foot in the door," he said, pointing to his towering tomato plants. "Maybe next year it could be bigger."

Lotterman draws crowd, talks economics

'Sacrifices and painful compromises' needed to bail out America, columnist says

Jurgen Boerema
Staff Writer

There is no easy way out of America's current economic situation, prominent journalist Ed Lotterman said in a speech to a crowded S101 audience on Nov. 5.

Lotterman, a former Dordt professor, currently a columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, faulted excessive government spending and an imbalance of imports to exports for creating a persistent national deficit and an unsustainable way of living for Americans.

He also pointed to excessive growth in the monetary supply for deepening the problem.

"I agree with the promi-

nent economist Milton Friedman when he said that if you let real output of goods and services be eclipsed by the money supply you will have inflation," he said. "This has been happening over a long period of time in America."

He also connected the growth in the money supply to the rise of property values in the housing market from the years 2000 to 2007. That growth led to banks looking to gain quick profits by giving out loans to people who could not otherwise afford them.

Eventually people had to default on their loans, and banks were left with massive amounts of assumed debt. Innovations in the financial system and a reduction of general financial regulations allowed

for banks to easily carry out these practices.

Lotterman warned that the government's decision to assume the debt of many financial institutions has set a dangerous precedent.

"We were on the edge of a financial abyss, and we did some things to bring ourselves out," he said. "But in doing so, we extenuated this moral hazard of bailing out someone based on their size regardless of whatever bad decisions they might have made."

He voiced the belief that eventually the U.S. government would deal with its rising debt.

"I think eventually we will confront the problem, but not without sacrifices and painful compromises," he said.

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

With a unanimous vote, Symposium granted the request of the Future Business Executives club for \$400 to help with funding for their trip to Pella, Iowa, where they will meet with business executives from Vermeer, Pella Corp. and Musco Lighting.

David Christensen came to the last meeting to thank Symposium for its help with funding the Goheen Gallop. He reported that the 5K raised \$1,200; \$900 went to aid Dea Lieu, and \$300 to the cross-country team.

The subcommittee examining diversity reported to Symposium. Symposium approved a list of questions for a student poll, furthering progress toward a campus-wide forum. The poll will be available online.

Plans for the healthcare forum, led by the Pre-Med Club, are underway.

Joel Veldkamp presented information about the Iowa Student Congress, which he then attended on Nov. 12. Veldkamp will report on his trip at the next Symposium meeting.

One item presented and discussed at the Iowa Student Congress meeting was the state budget cuts, which may mean the loss of the Iowa Tuition Grant and the Pell Grant. Both of these tuition aids provide much-needed tuition assistance for many Dordt students.

Alvin and Troy finalized their office hours: every Tuesday night from 10:00 – 11:30. They welcome your questions, comments, and concerns.

(compiled by Ashlee Stallinga)

Speaking of language...

Klaver and Oudman host Hug-a-Linguist Days



Adrianna Oudman gives one of her seminars for Hug-a-Linguist Days. Photo contributed.

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

Marquita Klaver and Adrianna Oudman hosted the 36th annual Hug-a-Linguist Days. They held nine speaking sessions on topics regarding linguistics, cultural and political effects of multilingualism, and their own experiences in working with different languages.

Klaver spent 22 years working among the Ifè people in the West African country of Togo. Heavily involved with Wycliffe Ministries in the translation work of the New Testament into the Ifè language, she worked as a consultant and recently had the opportunity to travel back to Togo for the dedication of the Ifè New Testament.

Though French is the official language, there are 43 languages in Togo. Over the 30-year period since Wycliffe began the Ifè translation project,

its language experts have seen enormous change. Wycliffe now has a literacy program with 6000 students enrolled. They have also completed the New Testament translation, and 20,000 churches have sprung up where only several hundred existed before. "All of that over a 30-year period—that's what every missionary dreams of," Klaver said.

Oudman, a junior majoring in Spanish and theology with a missions emphasis, spent time this past summer in GET Global. Through this Wycliffe program, students are immersed in a culture without any translators. She spent time in Guatemala in the San Miguel Acatàn region, where the K'anjob'al language is spoken. In her seminars Oudman discussed her experience and explained some of the linguistic, cultural and relational implications of multilingualism.

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Dutch Bakery brings back late night donut run

Mark Bylenga
Staff Writer

Donut runs are back! Not at Casey’s Bakery, like most seniors may remember traditional donut runs, but at The Dutch Bakery (emphasis on “Dutch”) in Orange City.

Ok, so it’s kind of a drive and technically it’s Northwestern’s turf. But where else can you find a hot and fresh donut at 2:30 in the morning?

New owners, Loren and Kathy Mulder, have a passion for baking. Before making a career shift to baking donuts, the couple operated a dairy farm. Last spring Kathy graduated from Dordt with a Business degree and Loren sold the cows; the couple took ownership of the bakery in September.

A year ago, the outdated facilities only attracted a small morning coffee crowd.

So the couple bought and remodeled the bakery –

making it “more contemporary” said Grace Venhuizen. The Dutch Bakery “is very established within Orange City. It’s very similar to Casey’s [Bakery] in Sioux Center.”

This new culinary experience is “less Dutch kitsch and more family oriented,” said Venhuizen. And with a complementary color scheme that supports Dordt and Northwestern, what else could students ask for?

The donuts are all handmade and are cooked in

a rotating, five-shelfed oven (that’s right, five!) at 275 degrees Fahrenheit until they have begun to rise. Then they are taken to a deep-fat fryer and cooked at 275 degrees

Fahrenheit until they are golden brown. (That’s 135 degrees Celsius for all you Canadians.) The donuts are then placed on a screen and glazed in a frosted coating.

Future unsure for international students

Adam McDonald
Guest Writer

International student Wendy Gomez lives semester-to-semester, wondering if this is the last time she will be able to walk down her dormitory’s hallways: her financial situation at Dordt College may end with deportation back to Nicaragua.

“It’s bad,” Gomez said when asked about her status.

College officials say Gomez is not alone and that other international students can only make partial payments for their tuition.

“My scholarship covers most of it, and I have a bunch of other sponsors giving me money,” Gomez said. “My family pays a little bit. All we

can pay is \$2000. The rest we just pray and ask God for a miracle.”

Nicaraguan banks do not give out loans because of national poverty.

Since she is an international student, banks in the United States

“All we can pay is \$2000. The rest we just pray and ask God for a miracle.”

are hesitant to give her loans.

In response to the needs of these students like Wendy, various Dordt faculty and staff are doing what they can to help the students during their financial crises.

Sanneke Kok, coordinator

of Academic Services for Minority and International Students, is allowing one student to live with her.

“We have one student living with us right now who was referred to me by a student that had just graduated,” Kok said.

One international alumnus is currently working on creating another scholarship geared toward international students.

“He is grateful for the education he got at Dordt. He has got a lot of connections with other international students,” Kok said.

“He and a core of other international students have been trying to find out how they can contribute and came up with the idea of starting a scholarship,” Kok said.



Left: Nathan Schaap enjoys a freshly glazed donut in the bakery’s dining area.

Above: Amber De Koekkoek and Leslie Oldengarm decide between apple fritters and chocolate twists.

Photos by Kelly Cooke

Students traveling to the bakery on Friday nights can watch Loren walk through the entire process.

Hours of operations for the remodeled attraction are

Monday-Friday from midnight to 5pm and Saturday from midnight to 1pm. The Bakery is closed on the Sunday in observance of the Sabbath.

Letter to the Editor: “Manufactured man”

Submitted by David Christensen

To respond to Miss Hoogendoorn’s article last issue, I must say that I am appalled at her reactions to Chocolate Hour.

I don’t know how she reached the conclusion that all men are looking to “hook-up” and have “sexual escapades,” but this is far from the truth.

Speaking as a male and a good friend of some of the very men on the Chocolate Hour panel, I can say that they answered truthfully to the best of my knowledge. They didn’t brag about their “sexual escapades” because—guess what—there haven’t been any!

Of course, men are still human and they make mistakes, but to call those on the panel liars is not true.

Attacking a man’s character is uncalled for and bad judgment on the part of the author.

And perhaps, it should be those chivalrous, upstanding, God-fearing, Christian “manufactured” types that girls should be looking for in the first place.

What are you doing for Thanksgiving?

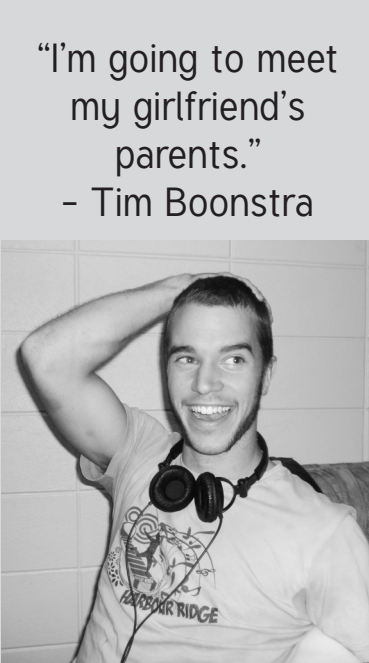


“My dad chooses a pig and we butcher and roast it for all our neighbors.”
– Sam Dekker

“Watching the Cowboys and the Longhorns!”
– Jared May



“We don’t do anything different than anyone else.”
– Megan Kok



“I’m going to meet my girlfriend’s parents.”
– Tim Boonstra



“My family does skits and plays tag!”
– Emily McFarland

Compiled by Joe Venhuizen



Dating Daze:
Dating Beyond Definition

Alyssa Hoogendoorn

Columnist

After a few uncomfortable minutes, he finally says it, “Oh, you want a *relationship*,” as if that’s the worst thing ever. After two months, you finally sit down to have the talk—the DTR, defining the relationship—only to discover there won’t be one.

You try to brush it off, play it cool. No, no you didn’t want a relationship. Of course not. But all the while you want to stuff your romantic longings in a drawer because you don’t want to lose him.

But what exactly are you losing? Are you friends? Friends with benefits? You certainly aren’t dating—are you?

In an age where we’re always looking for ways to simplify our lives, why are our relationships so complicated?

For those who reject the marriage myth of “thou shalt graduate from Dordt engaged,” the hookup culture may become a reality, which Laura Sessions Stepp describes in her book *Unhooked* as “the most confusing sexual landscape any generation has ever faced.”

These casual relationships, involving the romantically repressed, have become commonplace on many college and university campuses.

Our childhood fairytales of happily-ever-after are only true insofar as that our ideal soul mate has been declared nothing but a fantasy. Our storybook romances have been replaced by a list of “do’s” and “don’ts” to avoid having messy emotions.

That’s the problem with the hookup culture. It demands us to rid ourselves of having feelings because it’s all about having a casual connection—a physical bond with emotional detachment. All in good fun, of course. But what happens when we’re not having fun anymore?

We can find comfort in knowing that even if we can’t define our relationships, we have guidelines to define our hookups.

What a relief.

Reality check: Don’t Gloss Over Ft. Hood Reality

Last Thursday, an Army psychiatrist went on a shooting spree at the Fort Hood Army base in Texas, killing 13 people and wounding 30 others.

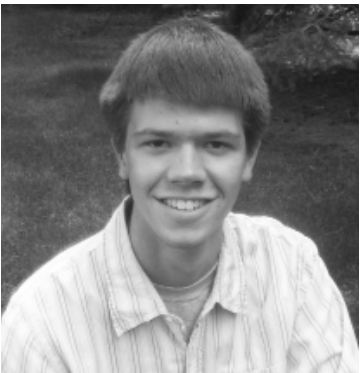
The shooter’s name is Nidal Malik Hasan. He gave his neighbor a copy of the Qur’an, the holy book of Islam, the night before the shooting. Multiple witnesses report hearing him shout “Allahu akbar”—Arabic for “God is the greatest”—as he gunned down his fellow soldiers.

At the time of this writing, President Obama is asking the nation not to “jump to conclusions,” and the lead Associated Press story on the case says that the shooter’s motive “remains unclear.”

I don’t think either President Obama or the Associated Press writers are stupid. I assume they’re tiptoeing around the blindingly obvious to avoid stirring up anti-Muslim sentiment.

The problem is the average American isn’t that stupid either. And he is going to draw the obvious conclusion.

No one should be prejudiced against Muslims. There are no violent religions, only violent people. But in



Joel Veldkamp

Columnist

light of current events, to claim that Hasan’s Muslim beliefs played no role in his actions is beyond dense—especially since this isn’t the first time Muslim American soldiers have turned on their comrades in recent years.

Alvin observes: What’s your identity crisis?

I have this idea for a series of portraits: one person at a time, dressed and holding the equipment, props and tools of various identities. One person as a sister, teacher, painter, actress, poet, wino. The next row: another person, with 17 more facets of their dynamic and active existence. It’s really a simple idea – a series within a series of portraits to solidify the claims and confessions of our conscious lives.

What is important to you? Feeding people? Perfecting a behind-the-back pass? Taking care of children? Building homes? Documenting an oppressed demographic? We make deliberate decisions about how we fill our time and what we choose to study and

which jobs we pursue and perform.

Seeing ourselves, and what we do, makes it real to us. The people we choose to be, the numerous portraits one could



Alvin Shim

Columnist

produce with one subject, can often mean encouragement and conviction, especially in the opinion of a third party. Last

American Muslims are a tiny minority in a country that is at war in two Muslim nations. We shouldn’t be surprised if some of them feel alienated. Violent acts like Hasan’s are evidence that this alienation is nearing a dangerous point.

By driving that reality underground, our cultural gatekeepers leave the alienation of some American Muslims unresolved, and the perception that all Muslims are violent uncorrected. That is a recipe for more conflict.

As we struggle to understand this horrific attack, let’s not brush over uncomfortable realities. If President Obama and the press will treat us like adults and address this problem head-on, all Americans will be better for it. And we in the church should go out of our way to make sure our Muslim neighbors feel welcome in this country.

week, a friend of mine was introduced as “a writer.” This must not have been the first time. Regardless, she beamed. The inspiration to read and write and live attentively coursed through her veins.

Seeing ourselves from another’s point-of-view can also, however, mean an epiphany of the “I never thought I’d be this person” sort –the sort where our younger selves would beat us up if they got their hands on a time machine.

Not the worst thing in the world, is it? How would we respond to each other, and to ourselves, with our many faces displayed so simply and plainly on the wall?

Who wants their photographs taken?

Minto’s musings: Why are students really here?

As a freshman at Dordt, I believed that college was the last stage of preparation for life and the first stage of adult freedom, and I think I was right. But I also thought that the preparation involved was all preparation for a job.

But really, what college student can predict the kind of career they’ll have?

Probably most of us will change our major at least once. Most of us will also change our career several times. So in some ways our only responsibility seems to be to pick a major that generally orients us in the vague direction we think we’ll go.

I’d like to suggest that we have a more fundamental set of responsibilities at college than



Robert Minto

Columnist

preparing as best we can for a career. Getting acquainted with these responsibilities used to be known as “building character.”

That phrase today brings up visions of pietistic busy work.

But I don’t actually have a Sunday school idea in mind. I’m thinking of character

building as the practice of developing the private habits of discipline and the public social skills we need to become the people we want to be. That’s one reason, for example, that we should be taking classes that sound interesting to us as well as classes we need to graduate—so our inner lives, as well as our resumes, can grow richer.

As the semester speeds toward finals week and we register for next semester’s classes, it might be helpful to step back for a moment to remind ourselves that even as we make a beeline for a job or graduate school, character formation remains our most significant form of preparation.

Letter to the Editor:
Business of college

Submitted by Daniel Den Boer

Dr. Gideon Strauss, in his presentation “Silly Walks Need No Justification,” paid Dordt an enormous compliment. According to Strauss, Dordt students are better prepared for their work in the world than students attending other institutions. This serves as a commendation and a warning.

As evidence, Strauss relayed the high praise Dordt students in the American Studies Program have received. The primary reason they would receive such appraisals in politics – and the source of this advantage – is the Reformed worldview. An intrinsic component of that worldview is “sphere sovereignty,” which provides not only a Christian vision for politics, but also a guiding principle for Christian institutions.

Sphere sovereignty has allowed many Christians to recognize that the church is not subject to the state and visa versa. This relationship extends to all social institutions in the same way: family, school, and business. Because sphere sovereignty recognizes that each sphere is subject to God alone, each sphere has a special, defining character apart from all other spheres.

At another lecture, Strauss mentioned this appraisal was given decades earlier. We should not easily gloss over this distinction in time.

By recognizing this compliment is several decades old, we are forced us to ask ourselves if this robust vision can still be found. If it can, we must ensure that it continues to be taught. However, teaching is not enough—we must also determine if the institution embodies the vision.

This task falls to students most heavily because the likeliest influential sphere here is business. The threat of the state and the church was a reality in Abraham Kuyper’s day, but today no sphere is as powerful as business administration.

Students must examine closely the choices of this institution: For what reason does Dordt add buildings or athletic programs? Why are certain departments receiving support and not others? In short, is Dordt an educational institution or a business? We were never told, as students, that this responsibility was ours. If Dordt is not a business than it should not be. If it is a business then, as its consumers, we have been given a responsibility we did not ask for, and have no choice but to bear it.

Flipping on the field



Freshman Aubrey Kloosterhouse demonstrates her powerful throw during a soccer game.
Photo by Paul Hanaoka

Ashlee Stallinga
Editor

Soccer makes Aubrey Kloosterhouse flip. Standing on the sidelines before a throw-in, ball in hand, Klooserhouse uses a front hand-spring to give her extra momentum and throw the ball farther, with more power. She doesn't use it for every throw-in, but when she's close

to the corner, the extra power gives her an advantage that a normal throw-in doesn't allow. "It's comparable to a corner kick," head coach Dave Schenk said. "It can place the ball where someone can head it in, and it becomes an offensive weapon. It's a real advantage on Dordt's wide field." Kloosterhouse's throw is rare: she is the only player on either Dordt's men's or women's team that does the flip, and she has only seen one other woman from an opposing team use it this season.

Kloosterhouse taught herself to flip in eighth grade, after hearing at the dinner table that dad did the stunt when he played soccer in high school. She practiced handsprings on the trampoline in her backyard until she worked up the courage to try it on the ground. Within a couple days, she had it down. "It's easier than it looks," she said. It may be "easy" to do, but it's

not easy to do well. "I was not very good at first," she said. "If you land on an angle at all, the ball spins. It took a lot of practice to stop the ball from spinning, but now I'm pretty good at throwing it straight." Spin isn't the only challenge to this throw. "When it's cold, it's really hard to grip the ball," she said. Rain also has an effect. Kloosterhouse remembers one particularly rainy game, in eighth grade. "Even though it was raining, my whole family was at the game and I wanted to show them my new throw. I came around on the flip, and my hands were empty. I looked for the ball on the field, but it was still behind me. It slipped completely out of my hands." Therefore, despite its advantages, not all coaches like to see players flipping over the ball. "I was told to always ask permission before using the flip during a game," Kloosterhouse said. "Some coaches don't like it." Schenk is not one of them. "Some don't allow it because the player can't throw accurately. Other coaches worry that it's just to show off," he said. "But it's something that can generate a lot of distance, and [Kloosterhouse] certainly can throw the ball a long ways, so I have no problem with it."

Cross country sends two to Nationals

Sam Hart
Staff Writer

Sophomore Michelle Steiger and senior Brent Van Schepen qualified for the Cross Country National Championships over the past weekend, thanks to performances by both runners at the conference meet in Fremont, Nebraska. Steiger ran 18:47 on the 5,000-meter course, and finished eighth at the meet. This will be her first appearance at

Nationals, which will be held near her hometown of Lynden in Vancouver, Washington. Van Schepen covered the men's 8,000 meter course in 25:59, finishing 15th and earning his second consecutive bid at Nationals. Last season he ran at the National Championships with a time of 26:21, which made him the 132nd finisher in the field of 331 runners. The National Championship meet will take place on Nov. 21.

Men's basketball begins season 3-0

Dordt College men's basketball opened the home season with another win against Grand View, giving them a 3-0 start. Some of last year's top scorers, Michael Eekhoff and Brandon Oldenkamp, were joined at the top by Trevor Wolterstorff, who had 19 points and five rebounds in the 77-61 victory. Eekhoff had 25 points and Oldenkamp had 18; each had eight rebounds, and Logan Kingma led the team in that category with ten. "The guys have worked hard in the first five weeks of practice, and we're seeing that now," Coach Ross Douma said. "We're not as good as we want to be yet, but I'm happy that they get to see these results." The team has got off to a fast start during their North Dakota road trip, their first victory over Valley City State, 94-87, and the

second over Jamestown by a score of 68-65. Shawn Keizer led the Defenders to victory in the first game, with 28 points and eight rebounds. Logan Kingma also played well, contributing 19 points and seven boards in the high-scoring game. The game against Jamestown was a little bit more of a defensive struggle, but junior forward Brandon Oldenkamp was able to put up solid numbers. He scored 19 points and pulled down eight rebounds in their victory. Trevor Wolterstorff put up 17 points in that game. Both Keizer and Wolterstorff are freshmen, and along with Douma they are showing that new additions to the team show promise for the season.

(Compiled by Sam Hart and Ashlee Stallinga)

Know the name

A look at Dordt's young talent in athletics

Sam Hart
Staff Writer

This freshman from Unity Christian in Michigan played as sweeper at the heart of the defense this year for the women's soccer team. As a high school senior, Meghan Warners was selected to the first-team all conference for her defensive play. She made the transition to the college level well, helping the defense hold opponents to only 16 goals so far this season. Despite a freshman on defense and another rookie in the goal, the women are keeping up with the high standard of play set last season, when the defense had 19 goals allowed. "[Warners] has gotten better as the year progresses," Coach



Photo by Kelly Cooke

Dave Schenk said. "She's in a very important role for us." As she gains more confidence and continues to adjust to a different style of play, Meghan Warners should continue to improve as her career at Dordt progresses.

Ask an athlete

Diamond sports writer Derek Buteyn goes the extra mile to ask Dordt athletes the tough questions



Photo by Kelly Cooke

Name: Todd Bakker
Sport: Hockey
Hometown: Chilliwack, BC, Canada
Major: Secondary Ed, Chemistry/Biology
Position: Center; "face off guy"
How long have you been playing? I started playing in

a league I was six. I've been skating since I was three.
What are your goals for the season? This year is more of a teaching year. We're helping the younger guys and developing as a team.
What is your favorite part about being on the team? The community of guys. It's a non-scholarship team, so everybody plays for the love of the sport. We get up at 5:30 every day just because we love to play.
Is there any freshmen "hazing" that you do? We get the rookies to go on a Dordt walk and then throw flour and water on them. But once they've been hazed, they're in on the rest of the hazing.
What was going to Nationals like for you last year? It was an awesome time... We had been through a lot of stuff to-

gether: games, practices, each other's weddings; it was the feather in the cap. We lost the first game, which was heart-breaking, but we came back and won against three really good teams. We beat a D1 team in a shoot out—a 5th year senior who wasn't really known for scoring made the shot. And Dordt gave us really expensive hotels and the food was great.
Any particular drill you dislike? The lightning drill. We skate to the blue line and back and the red line and back... etc. Skating is 10 times more work because of the starting and stopping and the 30 lbs of equipment. But we usually only do that after bad games.
Favorite movie/TV show? "The Shawshank Redemption" and "Good Will Hunting" are probably my favorites. And all Disney movies.

Directing class debuts one-act shows

Grace Venhuizen
Editor

A show with 17 different acts? Most would find it daunting, but instead of running from the New World Theatre, students are signing up to join in.

Running Dec. 2, 3, and 5, the one-act plays from student directors will be showcased in the New World Theatre. Each student is required to put together a show as a requisite for their directing class.

The requirements for the assignment are simple – the show may run no longer than 25 minutes and it must include at least two actors. An estimated 70 students auditioned; nearly 60 were given roles.

First time actor Austin Zeller said being in a one act has given him a chance to try something he might never have had a chance to do. “[Acting} is something I have been wanting to try but could never find the time,” Zeller said. “The one acts seemed like the best place to start since they don’t take as much time



(Above) Joe Venhuizen and Nate Scheuers receive blocking directions from student director Kelsey Reitsma. (Right) Student director Vanessa Theel explains her interpretation of the script to Emily Groneck.

Photos by Grace Venhuizen

as an actual Dordt production but still give the opportunity to be in a real play.’

Although the event will feature a combination of dramatic and comedic shows, first time student director Kelsey Reitsma said she chose a comedy for her one act because she saw it as a personal challenge to direct.

The challenge has turned out to be a learning experience

for Reitsma who said she is “learning to be an equal team member in the production and not be bossy [as a director].”

The directors may still be learning, but Zeller says he feels comfortable because the directors are students just like him. “I think that I might have felt intimidated by a professor for my first production, but having a student directing has made everything seem pretty relaxed.”



Through this learning experience, Reitsma enjoys the opportunity to create her own show. “I love [directing] because theatre is art and the way I portray this piece is my own art,” she said. “I am excited to see the audience react to my show...But no matter what the outcome, I will still like my piece of artwork.”

In addition to the 17 one-act shows debuting in the beginning of December, two other student shows directed by Danielle Roos and Zach Eggebeen will performed for the campus on Nov. 13.

Camerata given standing ovation



The Boston Camerata performs pieces from “A Symphony of Psalms” in their concerts across the United States.

Photo contributed

Mark Bylenga
Staff Writer

The Boston Camerata, along with the Dordt College Concert Choir and Kantorei, received a standing ovation from a packed BJ Haan on Nov. 6.

The travelling music group based out of Massachusetts is touring throughout the U.S. this fall with *A Symphony of Psalms* – celebrating the 500th anniversary of John Calvin.

Anne Azéma, the Artistic Director of the ensemble and a native of France, said she was excited about performing in a space where “the history of the music was close to the audience.”

Right before the concert’s intermission, the music reached a profound point. The choir sang

Psalms from the 16th century meant to explore a wide variety of emotions from grief and sorrow to wonder and hope. The group also used period style instruments in their rendition of songs from the French Revolution.

Before Friday’s concert, Azéma spoke during the 11 a.m. community block to a group of students and music faculty about “Early Music,” which is traditionally considered music stemming out of medieval times and extending through Mozart.

“It’s making music on a very human scale,” said Azéma, who researches and edits the choir’s repertoire – frequently transcribing the material from original sources. “Singing Early Music is to be connected with the human soul and who you are,” she said.

Festival holds “Chalk Circle”

The fall’s main stage show held for January theater festival

Jonathan Posthuma
Staff Writer

Although this fall’s main stage show is over, work on “The Caucasian Chalk Circle” is not.

“The Caucasian Chalk Circle,” has been held by the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF). Director Teresa Ter Haar said the honor of being held was both “exciting and surprising.”

“Urinetown! The Musical” was also held for last year’s festival, and Ter Haar is excited to see a repeat. She believes that these honors reflect the talent and hard work that went into the shows from all involved. According to Ter Haar, nearly the entire cast and crew is willing to continue working on the show.

If the show is held, the entire production will perform at the festival in January. It may happen, however, that only specific scenes or songs from a show are selected to move on to the festival in Kansas City. Ter Haar said she won’t know any more information until Dec. 12.

The costumes from the show have already been selected for the festival’s costume parade. The festival also nominated Emily Hageman, Danielle Roos and Matt Wiersma to participate in the Irene Ryan Scholarship competition for their acting roles in the show.

The production will begin to rehearse the show once more information is known, but for now, the theatre department waits for more news and continues to plan for a busy semester.

Notes of Inspiration

Michelle Kistler
Staff Writer

“We are Redeemed”
Hillsong

There is nothing like Your
love

No exchange for all You
gave

To be welcomed into life
So I could know a love that
saves

Now forever to belong
To walk with You for all
my days

There’s no greater love
than this

You are the Author and the
way

This month is National Adoption month and, as many of you are probably unaware, I am adopted. I was taken home two days after I was born and have been with my adoptive parents ever since. People often ask if I feel rejected or if my biological mother didn’t love or want me. My answer has always been no.

She did one of the most loving things a mother could do, when she could have had an abortion. She knew she couldn’t offer me the home and life that she felt I deserved, so she chose my parents because they were Christians who could give me a loving home where Christ was present.

This is love. But if this kind of love was shown to me and other adopted children, think about the love that God shows us when He adopts us into His family. As the song says, “Now forever to belong, to walk with You for all my days, there’s no greater love than this.” We are able to have an appreciation for what God has given to us and can live our lives in humble adoration of His great love.

As you contemplate these ideas, maybe you want to consider “adopting” a child for Project Angel Tree. Or, maybe donate your time and gifts to local churches or outreach programs. As you consider the love that Christ has shown us, maybe it will inspire you to demonstrate that love to someone else.

If you have a song that has impacted you, I invite you to email me and offer your suggestions at mchl1kst@dordt.edu.



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Comic mishaps *by Nate Scheuers*



OVER/UNDER

Your ultimate guide on how to think.



Dave De Wit
Columnist

Featured Photo



Each year, the Students Without Borders Club takes to the runway in their annual international fashion show. Above, Wendy Gomez models traditional clothing from her home country of Nicaragua.

This year, Students Without Borders will be holding the fashion show in the lower level of the Campus Center on Nov. 14.

Photo by Alvin Shim



Perceptive Polly

Dear Polly,

I am currently a student at Dordt and am gay. I have wanted to come out now for some time, but I know where the school stands on homosexuality. I don't feel safe speaking with anyone in Student Services about this. Should I just come out and get it over with? Or should I just bottle it up like I know many of the other gay and lesbian students do on campus?

belongtoHim

Dear belongtoHim,

First of all I want to thank you for finding the courage to write in. I am going to get right to the point in saying that bottling it up is not a good idea. In the wise counsel I sought to answer this question, I was told that you should confide in a few people who you trust and who will love and care about you. Find someone you know that will help you look at this from a biblical standpoint.

Next, you should fully understand Dordt's view on this. Contrary to common assumption, you will not be kicked out of Dordt for being gay. I asked Pastor Gorter where Dordt stands and he said, "Dordt policy forbids homosexual activity or promotion of it (just as it forbids heterosexual activity outside of marriage or promotion of it), but there would be no discipline for someone who has same-sex attraction." I would encourage you, or anyone struggling with this, to talk to Pastor Gorter. Finally, the most important thing you need to remember is that you are a child of God. God still loves you and is ready and willing to guide you through this struggle.

Sincerely,
Polly

- The topic: Shoes.
- OVERRATED: Why are shoes overrated? Kick off your shoes and read some newspaper.
- Have you ever gotten your shoe laces tied together without knowing it? It's horrifying. That wouldn't happen with flip-flops.
 - ASSOCIATION!
 - Running (not fun) = Shoes.
 - Sleeping (fun) = No shoes.
 - Working at most jobs (really not fun) = Shoes.
 - Taking a bath (amazingly fun) = No shoes.
 - If you laced up some sneakers before walking across hot coals, the whole Polynesian tribe would ridicule you.
 - Barefoot is just better. For tips on bare feet and barefootin', go to www.barefooters.org.
- UNDERRATED: Why are shoes underrated? Now the shoe is on the other foot.
- Please try squashing a spider barefoot.
 - You know the old woman who lived in a shoe. She had so many children, she didn't know what to do. Well, you take away shoes, and that woman and all her children are living in the streets. Shoes seem pretty important now, don't they?
 - FACT! Barack Obama wears shoes, and he's the President!
 - There are places in the world where people don't even have shoes. Try walking a mile in their.....feet?
 - Everybody loves to tie knots; it's a fun thing to do! Shoes allow us have that fun twice a day!

I conclude that shoes are **OVERRATED**. I wrote this entire column barefoot, so who needs shoes?

Want to stay warm this winter? Here are the top ten ways to ward off the Iowa cold!

1. Mug a grandma's knitting basket.
2. Wrap yourself in foil. If this does not work, at least you know you will look cool!
3. Mind over matter: there is no wind!
4. Move to Canada and learn to stop complaining.
5. Burn philosophy homework to keep warm.
6. Contribute to global warming and at least save your kids the trouble of making this list.
7. Exercise....just kidding.
8. Construct a sweat lodge in the garden outside the Commons.
9. Put on more layers than an onion-eating ogre.
10. For you nerds: slice open a Tauntaun.

Compiled by Vanessa Theel and Adrian Hielema